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Rural District of Horncastle

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1957



HORNCastle RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report
of the
Medical Officer of Health
1957

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

Medical Officer of Health

S.A.O'HAGAN, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector

F.W. HARPER, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector

P. WAISH, A.R.S.H.I., M.A.P.H.I.

The Medical Officer of Health is also Medical Officer for Horncastle and Woodhall Spa Urban District Councils.

The Public Health Inspector is also Building Inspector and Meat Inspector.

The General Purposes Committee deals with the matters affecting Public Health.

Members of the Committee :-

E.E. Andrew
C. Carter
Dr. E.C. Cordeaux
H. Croft
Rev. G.P.A. Dixon
E. Dobson
Ald. A.E. Dunham
H. Ellerby

E. Harrison
G.C. Harvey
F.J.W. Height
G.H. Hodgson
S.E. Howden
Rev. R. Jones
C.R. Leggott
Mrs. E.M.L. McFeeters

A.E. Robinson
Dr. W.P. Roe
Ald. T.W. Scholey
T.W. Spink
H. Ward

To The Chairman and Members,
Horncastle Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of your Medical Officer of Health and Chief Public Health Inspector for 1957.

The "headline" health news of the year was the campaign against Poliomyelitis which caused some delay in completion of other, principally County Council work. A very substantial proportion of the population of the Rural District now under the age of 16 have received 2 doses of vaccine and will, in rotation become eligible for a third dose, not less than 7 months after the first dose. This latter decision, recently taken by the Ministry of Health, involves a vast amount of preparatory clerical work at the County Offices, most of which would have been unnecessary had the decision been taken earlier, before the records, initially grouped by clinics and schools, had been broken down into alphabetical order. This work must now be reversed.

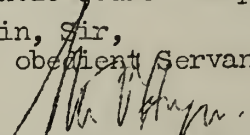
The autumn and early winter of 1957 were the occasion of the epidemic of Asian-type Influenza. This was remarkably infectious among the younger members of the community and caused a moderately severe illness of a few days duration followed by protracted convalescence. 5 deaths were recorded as directly due to influenza, whilst the infective group of respiratory diseases as a whole, were responsible for 23 deaths in 1957 compared with 5 in 1956, a proportion of about one-sixth of all deaths in 1957. A dead-virus vaccine was made available to those specially exposed, or vital personnel but insofar as this district was concerned, the vaccine arrived too late for its efficacy to be assessed, as the primary wave of infection had passed, and the feared later wave did not materialize.

In other fields of personal protection the community fared much better than in the case of influenza. Diphtheria remains under control, with a rather improved protection rate in the younger age group, through the use of combined vaccine. This is more popular although now restricted to use in the six winter months, this is no hardship. In certain localities where the whooping cough protection rate is high, the disease has virtually been abolished, but as yet, too many parents in the Rural District are neglectful of this valuable protection. Protection, against smallpox remains the privilege of the few, with a steady one-third of each years babies being vaccinated. This gradually increasing body of vulnerable young people are an increasing danger to themselves and others should the disease become introduced into the district. Only a vigilant body of family doctors and public health staff, with mobile reinforcements could deal with an outbreak should it occur.

In the field of environmental health, which is the proper field of this Council, steady progress is being made. The Council's contribution towards satisfactory housing, water supply and sanitation are well-known, together with the less spectacular but very necessary work of controlling meat supplies, food premises hygiene. Only in dry-refuse collection is this Council substantially behind the majority.

My thanks are due to you, sir, and the members of the Council for your readiness to facilitate my work and to the loyal team of office and outdoor staff upon whose work the whole Council depends.

I remain, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,


Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS

AREA OF RURAL DISTRICT:	114,629 acres
REGISTRAR GENERAL'S ESTIMATE OF MID-YEAR RESIDENT POPULATION:	13,450 persons
DENSITY OF POPULATION:	0.11 persons per acre
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES:	
PERMANENT	4060
TEMPORARY	18
CARAVANS, ETC.	31
RATEABLE VALUE OF RURAL DISTRICT AT 31/3/58	£97,027.
SUM REPRESENTED BY PENNY RATE AT 31/3/58	£415. 16. 2.

VITAL STATISTICS

Live births

		<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>
Legitimate	Male	<u>84</u>	<u>103</u>	<u>96</u>
	Female	<u>97</u>	<u>82</u>	<u>99</u>
	Total	<u>181</u>	<u>185</u>	<u>195</u>
Illegitimate	Male	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>6</u>
	Female	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>
	Total	<u>6</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>11</u>
Total live births		187	193	206
Crude live birth rate per 1000 estimated population		14.75	15.7	15.0
Standardized live birth rate per 1000 estimated population		16.7	17.4	16.7
Live birth rate, England and Wales per 1000 estimated population		15.0	15.7	16.1
Illegitimacy rate				55 per 1000 live births

Still-births

		<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>
Legitimate	Male	3	4	2
	Female	<u>4</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>4</u>
	Total	7	10	6
Illegitimate	Male	0	2	0
	Female	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
	Total	<u>7</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>6</u>

Still-birth rate per 1000
live births 1949 - 1954 mean

18.7

Still-birth rate per 1000
live births, 1957 only

29.0

Still-birth rate, England and
Walse, per 1000 live and still-
births 1957

23.1

23.0

22.4

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age

3

5

Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age

2

3

All the 5 deaths of infants were of those legitimately born

DEATHS

	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>
Males	<u>67</u>	<u>63</u>	<u>66</u>
Females	59	52	69

Crude death rate per 1000
estimated population

9.92

9.16

10.0
(on 1956
population)

Standardized death rate per
1000 estimated population

9.14

9.16

10.0

Death rate England and Wales
per 1000 estimated population

11.7

11.7

11.5

Distribution of Deaths in age groups under 65 years

Age at Death	0-1	1 - 4	5 - 14	15 - 24	25 - 34	35 - 44	45 - 54	55 - 64
No. of Deaths	6	0	3	1	1	2	12	12

Causes of death at ages under 65 years

Years

0 - 1	Asphyxia (3) Congenital defects (3)
1 - 4	Nil
5 -14	Road accident (1) Farm accident (1) Sarcoma (1)
15 -24	Motor cycle accident (1)
25 -34	Burning in car (1)
35 -44	Cirrhosis of liver (1) Seminoma (1)
45 -54	Nephritis (1) Coronary thrombosis (3) Other heart disease (1) Pneumonia (1) Diabetes (1) Bronchiectasis (1) Cancer (2) Other defined and ill defined (2)
55 -64	Pyelonephritis (1) Pneumonia (2) Coronary disease (3) Cancer of lung (1) Vascular nervous lesions (3) Other heart disease (2)

Maternal Mortality

Since 1945 there has been no maternal death and in the same period 2641 children have been born.

Causes of Death as shown in the Registrar General's Short List

Short

List No.	Cause of Death	Male	Female	Total
1.	Tuberculosis, Respiratory	0	0	0
2.	Tuberculosis, other	0	0	0
3.	Syphilitic disease	1	0	1
4.	Diphtheria	0	0	0
5.	Whooping cough	0	0	0
6.	Meningococcal infection	0	0	0
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	0	0	0
8.	Measles	0	0	0
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	0	1
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	2	4
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	0	1	1
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	0	1	1
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	0	0	0
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	7	8	15
15.	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	0	0	0
16.	Diabetes	1	0	1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	7	15	22
18.	Coronary disease, angina	10	5	15
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	3	0	3
20.	Other heart disease	8	9	17
21.	Other circulatory disease	2	8	10
22.	Influenza	4	1 (23 as	5
23.	Pneumonia	2	4 against	6
24.	Bronchitis	3	6 5 last	9
25.	Other disease of respiratory system	2	1 year)	3
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	0	0	0
27.	Gastritis, Enteritis and diarrhoea	1	0	1
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	1	0	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	1	0	1
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	0	0
31.	Congenital malformations	1	0	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	5	5	10
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	4	1	5
34.	All other accidents	0	2	2
35.	Suicide	0	0	0
36.	Homicide and operations of war	0	0	0
Totals		66	69	135

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Notifications</u>		<u>Deaths</u>	
	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>
Dysentery (Sonne)	205	6	1	0
Scarlet Fever	5	0	0	0
Erysipelas		3		0
Pneumonia	10	8	3	6
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	0	0	0
Measles	96	160	0	0
Whooping Cough	41	65	0	0
Food Poisoning	3	1	0	0
Salmonellosis	1	0	0	0
Acute Encephalitis	0	1	0	0
Poliomyelitis	2	3	0	0
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	0	1	0	0
All others	0	0	0	0

Whooping Cough

Comparing 1947 with 1957 for age incidence

Mean age at attack in 1947 = 5.07 years

Mean age at attack in 1957 = 5.8 years

Approximately half children are immunized by age of two years.

No figures are available for the proportion of victims who had previously been immunized, but the absence of any great fall in incidence and slightly increased mean age at attack suggest that a booster dose at 4 or 5 years of age would be worth while, now that it can be combined with other prophylactics.

In 1947, 37% of cases were 3 years of age or under whilst ten years later the percentage had dropped to 23.5%. This represents real progress, since it is in the very young child that whooping cough is both a trial and a danger. It is reasonable to hope that an intensive anti-diphtheria and anti-whooping cough campaign might substantially increase the proportion of children protected during the vital early age.

Infant welfare centres can play only a comparatively small part in this, since this is a rural area in which travel is restricted, and if both diseases are to be more seriously attacked, then centres no more sparsely scattered than schools are necessary to reinforce the efforts of the family doctors. A programme on the lines of the anti-poliomyelitis scheme would be effective and not so burdensome since any complication or shortage of supply would be unlikely.

Poliomyelitis

The incidence of this disease has been only one case per year, including non-paralytics, for the past 18 years, although peaks of 3 cases in 1957 and 5 in 1949 are noted. The importance of prevention lies mainly in the long period of incapacity which may result for the unlucky few rather than the risk to the majority.

Shortage of vaccine and the consequent re-duplication of consents and vaccination sessions delayed the attainment of any substantial mass immunity.

Measures of control of infectious diseases

The following figures are given by the County Medical Officer :-

Diphtheria Immunization (only)	Under		Boosting Doses
	5 years	5 - 14 years	
1957	10	11	122
1956	7	8	122
1955	35	8	73
1954	132	12	153
1953	132	5	104

Whooping Cough Immunization (under 5 years) (only)	Under					
	One	One	Two	Three	Four	Total
1957	1	0	0	0	0	1
1956	1	1	0	2	1	5
1955	0	2	2	0	1	5
1954	32	53	19	12	5	121

Combined
Diphtheria and
Whooping Cough
Immunizations
(under 5 years)

	Under One	One	Two	Three	Four	Total
1957	82	29	8	4	1	124
1956	72	31	4	1	0	108
1955	70	25	6	3	1	105
1954	6	1	1	0	1	9

Smallpox

	Under One	1 - 4	5 - 14	15 & Over	Total
Vaccinations					
1957	57	10	4	10	81
1956	59	9	1	6	75
1955	52	4	0	1	57
1954	79	12	1	8	100
Re-Vaccinations					
1957	0	3	9	14	26
1956	0	2	11	7	20
1955	0	0	1	8	9
1954	0	3	5	7	15

National Health Service Act, 1946

No change has occurred in the hospital services in and around the district. There remains a desperate need for Hospital accommodation for mental defectives.

There has been a review of all ascertained defectives to determine the degree of urgency of each for a place in a colony. Many are quite adequately cared for and occupied in their own families, but domestic emergencies may call for quick temporary admission and this can now be arranged with less legal formality than heretofore.

School Health and Maternity and Child Welfare Services

Although nowadays entirely diagnostic and prophylactic these clinic sessions are maintained and serve an additional function of being a meeting-point for doctors, nurses and others engaged in the work.

The Horncastle Ophthalmic Service for children has become delayed in its work through illness of the Specialist, and it appears that some assistance will be necessary to meet the arrears.

National Assistance Act, 1947, Section 47

No case was considered for action under this Section in 1957.

Sanitary Circumstances of the District

Housing: As elsewhere, house-building received a severe check by Central Government action and a mere 10 houses were completed during the year.

129 houses were built by the R.A.F. and are serviced by the normal civilian channels.

At the end of the year there still remained a small hard core of hut-dwellers for whom the standards of tenancy of new Council-Houses would impose some stress. One or two are seeking to build their own homes. The huts are sold as quickly as they are vacated and find a ready sale.

Figures are given by the Surveyor for the number of houses brought up to standard with the financial assistance of improvement grants. These number 63 in this year as compared with a total of 129 in the preceding years during which grants were available under the Act.

The work of routine inspection of dwelling-houses for sanitary defects continues and in practically every case owners have co-operated willingly to remedy defects pointed out to them.

Water Supply: The "back-bone" of the comprehensive scheme was completed during the year although teething troubles lasted into 1958. A vast volume of water is already being distributed through the new mains. In general, the supply and quality have been satisfactory but trouble with at least one float valve caused many hours of difficult work under the worst of weather conditions. A control system incorporating reservoir level recorders and flow meters and estimated to cost in the vicinity of £3,000. has been approved and is awaiting loan sanction.

It will be appreciated that unlike Urban water supplies in which a trunk main usually comes very close to the administrative headquarters before the distribution starts, this scheme involves distribution to consumers almost from the points at which the big mains enter the District, whilst the contours of the land result in wide variations in pressure, with considerable risk of negative pressure at high points when the down-hill draw-off is excessive.

Refuse Collection: This has occasioned no difficulty during 1957 although it is not possible to foresee when a comprehensive collection will be possible in place of the quarterly hardware collection.

In the less Urbanized areas, it is undoubtedly beneficial for all compostable refuse to be so utilized but it is not always so used and many country cooking fires are cluttered with potato peelings etc. Perhaps the decline in cottage pig-keeping has played a part.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal: Bad effluent from the Wragby works caused the Council serious concern and this was found to be due to flooding of the works by the ingress of storm water. The source of this has been broadly located as in the area drained to the Horncastle Road pumping station but has not been precisely located and dealt with, despite quite considerable efforts. A dramatic improvement followed installation of scumboards in the primary settling tank.

During the year, maintenance on all the works was put in charge of a mobile maintenance engineer and an all-round improvement has been noted. Some renewals of working parts have been long delayed, with reduction of overall efficiency.

The erection of West Ashby disposal plant was well in hand by the end of the year and has by now been accepted as ready for connections to be made to the sewer previously laid.

An ambitious plan has been prepared for sewerage Mareham-le-Fen. This, inevitably will be costly because of the low density of building.

Food Hygiene: The requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations appear to have become well understood and a fairly good standard of food-handling is maintained.

It will be noted that it is usual for traders to co-operate fully with the Inspectors and the reference to contraventions unremedied at the year end, can be taken as due to the normal delay in getting works carried out.

There was no change in the system of meat inspection during the year, although the number of carcasses examined increased from 4730 to 5770 during the year, the increase being mainly among bovine animals.

REPORT OF WORK DONE BY SANITARY INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1957

TOTAL NUMBER OF HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR	139
(i) By Local Authority	10
(ii) By other Local Authorities	0
(iii) By other Bodies or Persons	129

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR

(1)(a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for Housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	257
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	312

REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICE

Number of dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	97
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ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR

Proceedings under Sections 9 and 10 of the Housing Act, 1936	Nil
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HOUSING ACT, 1949

(a) Number of applications for grants received	77
(b) Number of grants made	63
(c) Number of applications for grants made by Local Authority	0

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS, TENTS, VANS, ETC.

Number of Site Licences	0
Number of individual Licences	31
Total number of caravans permitted under Licences	31
Total number of inspections during year - sites	0
- dwellings	14
Number of contraventions remedied	2

FOOD PREMISES

BAKEHOUSES

Number in district	13
Number of Inspections	36
Number of Contraventions	3
Defects remedied	3

MILK SUPPLIES

Number of distributors on register - Sterilized	2
- Pasteurised	2
- Tuberculin Tested	0
- N/D	0
Number of samples of milk taken in course of delivery	0
Number of inspections of dairy premises	3
Contraventions remedied	1

ICE CREAM

Number of Manufacturers on Register	1
Number of Premises Licenced for Sale of Ice Cream	39
Number of Inspections of premises made	48
Number of Contraventions found	0
Number of Samples taken	0

MEAT PRODUCTS

Number of Premises registered for Manufacture of Meat Products	13
Number of Inspections made	21
Number of Contraventions found	5
Contraventions remedied	4

OTHER FOOD PREMISES

Number of Inspections	84
Number of Contraventions found	5
Number of Contraventions remedied	4

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

Number Licensed - Abattoir type	0
- Private (individual)	8
Number operation by Local Authority	0

UN SOUND FOOD

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	cattle excluding cows 1957	cows 1957	calves 1957	sheep and lambs 1957	pigs 1957
Number killed	1067	142	85	2489	1987
Number inspected	1067	142	85	2489	1987
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
- whole carcasses condemned	3	1	0	0	7
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	37	7	2	52	19
%age of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	3.7	5.6	2.3	2.1	1.3
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcasses condemned	2	0	0	0	0
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	18	13	0	0	84
%age of the number inspected infected with tuberculosis	2%	9%	0	0	4.2
Method of disposal:- stained and used for commercial purposes.					

OTHER FOODS CONDEMNED

70 lbs. Haslet.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Closets

Number of houses with water closets, pail closets or privy vaults in district	N/K
Number of water closets substituted for pail closets or privy vaults	83

Cesspools and Septic Tanks

Number of cesspools and septic tanks emptied, etc.	334
Number abolished	12

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Details of areas or villages where provision has been made of new sewers or existing sewerage arrangements improved	Nil
Details of areas or villages where provision has been made of new sewage disposal facilities or existing arrangements improved	Nil

West Ashby scheme was started during the year

Any part of the district urgently requiring public sewers and/or treatment works for Public Health reasons (state briefly reasons)

Marcham le Fen. Nuisance in sewer dykes in dry weather.

WATER SUPPLIES

Domestic

Number of houses supplied from public mains -	
in house	2900
standpipe	Nil
Number of houses supplied from private sources -	
in house	1262
standpipe	Nil
New sources of supply and location - Public	Nil
Private	Nil
Number of public supplies closed as polluted	Nil
Number of public supplies closed for other reasons	Nil
Any part of district requiring a public supply or the replacement of a public supply for public Health reasons - Comprehensive Scheme will be completed in 1958	
Number of samples taken for chemical examination	Nil
Number of samples taken for bacteriological examination - from public supplies	
Class I	8
Class II	2
Class III	1
Class IV	1

Number of samples taken for bacteriological examination - from private sources

Class I	5
Class II	1
Class III	1
Class IV	1

GENERAL

Offensive Trades Nil

Knackers Yard

Number licensed 2

Number of inspections 3

Contraventions remedied 1

Shops, Act, 1950

Number of shops inspected 42

Contraventions remedied Nil

Disinfection and Disinfestation

Rooms or premises disinfected

(a) infectious disease other than tuberculosis Nil

(b) tuberculosis Nil

Number of premises subject to disinfestation 1

Refuse Collection and Disposal

Number of premises from which refuse is collected All

Frequency of collection

Quarterly; fortnightly in Coningsby,
Tattershall, Wragby and Tetford

Method of disposal

Controlled tipping

Is this satisfactory?

Yes

Is collection by Local Authority or contract

Local Authority

Nuisances

Total number of nuisances during year :-

(1) Abated as result of informal action by

Public Health Inspector

144

(2) Reported to Council - Statutory notice issued

1

- Statutory notice not issued

1

Details of nuisances abated:

	After informal Intimation	After Statutory Notice
Refuse	42	-
Foul ditches, ponds and stagnant water	47	1
Drainage	29	-
Poultry and Animals	17	-
Dangerous Premises	-	-
Miscellaneous Nuisances	9	-

Number of rodent operatives employed

Are there any serious reservoirs of rats in district? No

Nil

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948

INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Secs. 1 - 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	10	10	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	66	66	2	Nil
(iii) Other Premises in which Sec. 7. is enforced by Local Authority	3	4	Nil	Nil
TOTAL	79	80	2	Nil

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Nil

